

do not have a Medicare HMO option available to them. It is difficult to understand how beneficiaries who paid into the Medicare trust funds at the same rate and pay the same part B premium now receive very different AAPCC payments. This is not equitable or fair. Improving the AAPCC payment formula is critically important to fulfill our legislative promise of providing health care choices as well as equity and fairness to all beneficiaries.

Why can some beneficiaries today choose to receive their Medicare services from the traditional fee-for-service or an HMO and others cannot? HMO's and hospital associations suggested that a monthly payment between \$325 to \$350 begins to provide them with the opportunity to offer Medicare managed care services. For this reason, it was necessary to craft an AAPCC payment formula that would support the establishment and operation of an HMO or the new options of a provider-sponsored organization [PSO] or medical savings accounts [MSA's].

The Balanced Budget Act improves the AAPCC payment formula by setting a payment floor of \$350. This is extremely beneficial for counties in 43 States with below average payment rates between \$177–\$300 and offers hope to the more than 4 million beneficiaries in rural and efficient markets that they may soon have the choice to receive Medicare services through an HMO, PPO, MSA, or PSO. Other important rural health care provisions incorporated into the Balanced Budget Act only enhance the care and services available to rural America:

Clarifying the Medicare payments to essential access community hospitals/rural primary care hospitals.

Implementing a new Rural Emergency Access Care Hospital Program.

Increasing by 10 percent the Medicare bonus payment to 20 percent for rural, primary care physicians practicing in health personnel shortage areas.

Reinstating the Medicare Dependent Hospital Program for facilities with 100 or fewer beds and at least 60-percent Medicare patient discharges or days.

Establishing of a uniform reimbursement rate for physician assistants and nurse practitioners at 85 percent of the physician fee schedule payment for outpatient services.

Setting a floor for the area wage index used in determining prospective payments to hospitals.

Prohibiting the Medicare Geographic Re-classification Review Board from rejecting applications of rural referral centers on the basis of area wage index.

Extending the rural referral center classification for any hospital previously classified.

The health of rural health care and services to Medicare beneficiaries will only be improved with the enactment of these very important provisions in the Balanced Budget Act. I am pleased to lend my support to this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COACH EDDIE G.
ROBINSON

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, we have honored many legends on this floor—men and

women who are revered and who will be so revered for generations. I come to this historic floor today to add still another name to this long list of distinguished Americans who we can truly call a legend of our time—one whose singular contributions will separate him from everyone else who has toiled in his profession.

Our Nation has produced many, many great football coaches. Men like Paul "Bear" Bryant, Woody Hayes, Ara Parseghian, Joe Paterno, Knute Rockne, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Bud Wilkerson, to name a few. But, today I rise to pay tribute to the historical accomplishments of Coach Eddie G. Robinson of Grambling State University—the winningest football coach of all time, the best that the game of football has to offer.

During a period spanning 55 years, Coach Robinson has led his Grambling State teams to more than 400 victories. No other coach has reached the 400 win milestone. Along the way, he has won 17 SWAC championships or co-championships. Coach Robinson started modestly at Grambling. Nevertheless, he grew to a giant in his profession. Yes, he has become the greatest coach of all time, but his first priority always was the development of his players. Coach Robinson nurtured his athletes into competent, strong, professional players, not only in game of football but in game of life. He has touched our hearts, our very souls. His achievements will stand forever.

We are left to wonder what Grambling State University would have been like had Eddie Robinson not walked through the doors of the then Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute in 1941. Would there have been the mentoring, that steady hand guiding countless young athletes to exalted levels of achievement? Would such players as Paul "Tank" Younger, Willie Brown, Willie Davis, Buck Buchanan, Doug Williams, Charlie Joiner, Frank Lewis, Essex Johnson, Billy Newsome, John Mendenhall and over 200 other players have been able to leave their mark on the National Football League? No. A Grambling State University, indeed the American way of life, without the contributions of Coach Robinson is not imaginable.

Coach Robinson, served as a coach, father and tutor to thousands of students at Grambling who have gone on to make great contributions to this Nation. Through his tenacity and guidance, he influenced countless young men and women who crossed his path. For this and for all that Coach Robinson through his success has meant to our country, we in the Congress offer our most heartfelt congratulations to him. All Americans are extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience the influence of this great man. Coach Eddie Robinson is a winner, and because he is, so are we all.

The Congress salutes Coach Robinson today not only for winning more football games than any other college coach, but for who he is.

IN HONOR OF MS. MALIN FALU, A
RADIO HOST PERSONALITY WHO
HAS ENTERTAINED AND SERVED
THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Malin Falu, a Hispanic woman who has distinguished herself as a prominent radio personality. Ms. Falu will be honored today in a live broadcast on Radio WADO 1280 AM.

Ms. Malin Falu is the creator, producer, and commentator of the Hispanic radio program "Hablando con Malin." Speaking with Malin. This radio program is transmitted throughout the New York and New Jersey area. In her show, Ms. Falu discusses the important issues that affect the Hispanic community. She keeps them informed of events and issues that are notable and allows her listeners to participate and voice their opinions.

She has worked hard and strived to be one of the best commentators in Hispanic radio. Ms. Falu received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Puerto Rico. She then went on to receive her masters of arts degree in media from the New School for Social Research. She has also studied theater in London, England. A well-accomplished woman, she now enjoys reaching out to the Hispanic community through the airwaves.

For the last 17 years, Ms. Falu's sweet voice has captured the hearts of all her listeners. Her show has been transmitted from all around the world, including Greece, Israel, and many countries in Latin America. With her charisma and dedication, Ms. Falu serves the community by exposing and finding solutions to the problems it faces.

She has inspired many to accomplish their goals and dreams. She has advised today's younger generation to enrich and develop their minds. She is a wonderful role model who has served her community with dedication and dignity. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this great woman, Malin Falu.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today on the 2-year anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement, I rise to draw attention to NAFTA's failed promises. Two years ago I objected to the passage of NAFTA because of the thousands of American workers that would be displaced from their jobs and the lack of opportunities they would face in an uncertain market as a result of the trade agreement.

Due to the present political and economical instability of Canada and Mexico, I am even more concerned today about the adverse repercussions of agreeing to NAFTA. In 1994, the Department of Labor reported that 17,000 jobs were lost due to plant relocations to, or increased imports from Mexico or Canada. Last year, 152 companies filed petitions under